

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures

November 17, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Chris Riddle, Chair; Jacqueline Maidana, Vice-Chair; Michael Greenebaum, Clerk;
John Hornik, Amber KaCey, Hind Mari, Janet McGowan, Adrienne Terrizzi

Absent: Maurianne Adams

Guests: John Fox, Meg Gage, Marcie Sclove

AGENDA

1. Re3view and Approve Minutes of November 3, 2016
2. General Discussion of November 16 Town Meeting session
3. Schedule Upcoming Meetings
4. Prioritize list of potential Town Meeting improvements
5. Review presentation of Article 13
6. Meeting with Charter Commission
7. Items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours prior to the meeting
8. Public Comment

The meeting was called to order at 4:09. Approval of the Minutes of November 3, 2016, was deferred.

The Subcommittee has been invited by the Charter Commission to meet with them on Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m. They would like a presentation from the SPP on our ideas for improving Town Meeting and an opportunity to ask questions of us. They have allotted 30-45 minutes for this meeting.

Using Adams's list as its starting point, the SPP discussed which ideas, both specific and general, it wished to present to the Charter Commission. As the discussion ensued it became important to emphasize that the SPP has not necessarily achieved consensus about any of them at this time, but it agreed that the following list is a useful indication of the proposals we may develop further to present to TMCC for inclusion on the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting.

1. Creation of a moderator-appointed Community Benefits Committee, analogous to the Finance Committee, to review Warrant articles, especially zoning articles, and report in writing to Town Meeting on the potential benefits and concerns.
2. Delay voting on all motions and amendments from the floor until the session following their introduction and discussion. This allows Town Meeting members

as well as boards and committees to consider them and comment if they choose to. Allied to this is a proposal to deal with zoning articles first, before budgets and capital plans.

3. Several ideas for different schedules than the impacted Annual and Special Town Meetings are being explored.
4. A variety of proposals for improving the communication at the precinct level are on the table. These include returning to the original idea of having at least one meeting in each precinct. Candidates need to get to know each other and precinct residents, prior to spring elections. Meetings in each precinct prior to Annual and Special town meeting will allow members to hear the opinions of residents who wish to share them.
5. We have received communications from Town Meeting members suggesting that we look at the size and composition of Town Meeting. We will do that, and also clarify procedures for making changes of this sort.
6. There is interest in allowing the Moderator to call the question on his own initiative when he thinks the debate has gone on long enough. This would still require a two-thirds vote in Town Meeting.
7. There is strong support for including minority opinions in both written and oral reports to Town Meeting from boards and committees when there is a split vote on recommendations.
8. There are a range of options concerning the Middle School auditorium on the table. These include audio-visual improvements and lighting.

At our next meeting on December 1 we will continue to work on this list and determine the form of our presentation to the Charter Commission. Riddle will assemble a definitive master list.

Riddle passed around his presentation of Article 13.

Our next three meetings will be on December 1, December 8, and December 15 at 4 p.m. Place to be announced.

Michael Greenebaum, Clerk